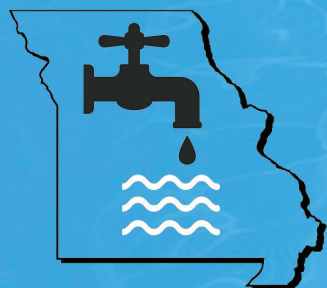


Missouri Department of Natural Resources OPERATOR CERTIFICATION SECTION



WATER & WASTEWATER DIGEST

Fall 2020

Operator Certification Information Regarding COVID-19: Renewal Training Waiver Extended

Governor Parson extended Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-09 to Dec. 30, 2020, allowing agencies to continue certain rule suspensions already approved by the governor. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources will continue its suspension of the training-hours requirements for drinking water treatment, distribution, wastewater treatment and CAFO operator certificates. The following rules remain temporarily suspended: 10 CSR 60-14.020(8)(C), 10 CSR 20-9.030(4)(B) and 10 CSR 20-14.020(4)(B). This rule suspension will expire on Dec. 30, 2020, provided there are no further extensions.

During the rule suspension, operators can renew a certificate without obtaining the minimum amount of renewal training that otherwise would be required. To qualify, renewal applications for certificates must be submitted to the department and postmarked prior to the expiration of the waiver, and include a note stating you were unable to complete training due to COVID-19. You may write the note directly on the renewal postcard and return it with payment.

Please note certificates with expiration dates after Dec. 30, 2020, including those with Dec. 31, 2020, expiration dates, fall outside of the rule suspension and must meet all training renewal requirements to renew the certificate.

Due to the availability of training in a variety of formats, including live virtual training, you are encouraged to think long term about your training needs, and consider completing training early in the three-year certificate renewal cycle. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about distance-learning opportunities, many of which are free.

Some in-person training is available, but the department recommends you do not rely solely on attending in-person training opportunities as the only way to satisfy your training needs. As we have seen, local COVID conditions can change and training providers may decide to cancel upcoming trainings and conferences.

[Visit our website](#) to read the department's press release about these rule suspensions.

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Over \$25,000 Awarded for Abandoned Well Plugging

The department's Public Drinking Water Branch (PDWB) is committed to helping public water systems protect their drinking water at the source. In state fiscal year 2020, the PDWB issued over \$25,000 in awards to four public water systems to assist in plugging five abandoned wells. Abandoned wells are a safety concern and can act as a conduit for contamination to groundwater aquifers. Examples of potential contaminant sources include improperly managed waste, nonpoint source runoff and leaking underground storage tanks. If a contaminant enters a drinking water aquifer, it can take years to remediate. Properly plugging abandoned wells reduces the likelihood of this occurring and helps public drinking water systems maintain their source water for future generations.

The PDWB will be accepting new applications for abandoned well plugging awards in November and December of 2020. For more information about our source water protection efforts, please visit [the PDWB's Source Water Protection webpage](#) or contact us at SourceWaterProtection@dnr.mo.gov.

Attention eDMR Users! New eDMR System on November 9, 2020

The Department is developing a new electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR). The new eDMR system will replace the existing third party E2 eDMR system. **The anticipated implementation date is Nov. 9, 2020.**

Permittees should plan for the change and keep the following in mind:

- Once implemented, the department will no longer accept paper applications for access to the eDMR system.
- When the new eDMR system is implemented, current users will be required to register as a new user online through the Missouri Gateway for Environmental Management (MoGEM), and will no longer be able to report through the third party E2 system.
- The first user to associate to a facility will need to be an Organization Official who will have the ability to eSign documents and approve others to eSign documents. This person must be an authorized person or a duly authorized representative of the facility.

The eDMR system will be more user-friendly, make compliance easier and provide the ability for account management by the facility rather than the department.

We will continue to provide updates and instructions as the deadline for the eDMR system approaches. Feel free to check out MoGEM [here](#).

Additional information and links to the eDMR system may be found on our [website](#). Those with questions and comments may email edmr@dnr.mo.gov or call the eDMR Help Desk at 573-526-2082 or toll free 855-789-3889.

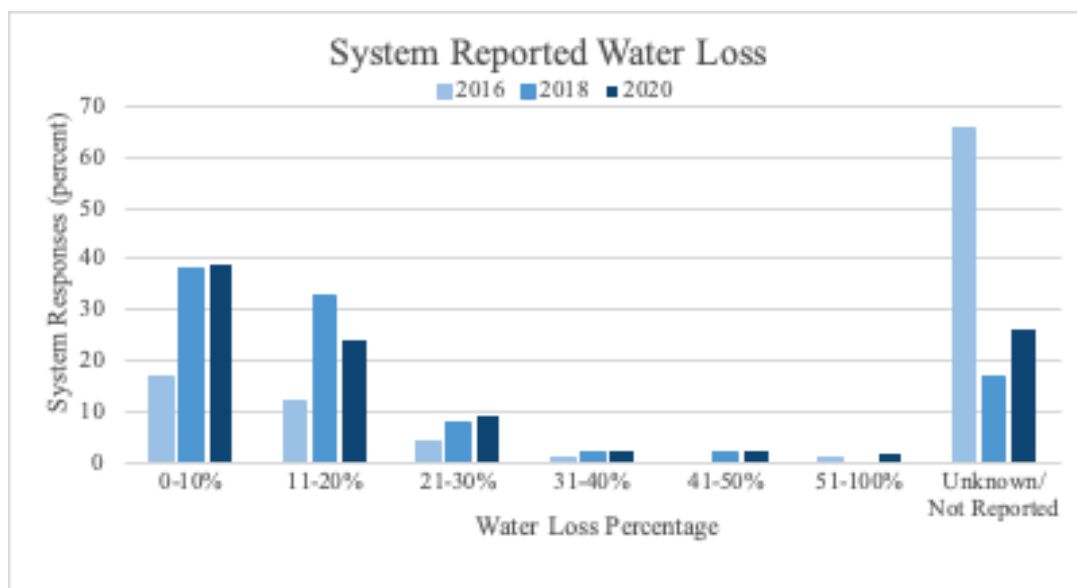


Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity Survey

The department's Public Drinking Water Branch (PDWB) would like to thank everyone who completed the 2020 Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) Capacity Survey. The PDWB uses this voluntary survey to:

- Identify technical assistance needs of Missouri public water systems and help water systems access technical assistance.
- Identify training needs of Missouri public water systems and prioritize training topics and locations based on those needs.
- Identify other interests, such as funding, of public water systems and put those water systems in touch with the appropriate resources.
- Evaluate TMF capacity of Missouri public water systems and establish a baseline of public water system needs.

Water loss is one of the key indicators the PDWB considers when looking at baseline TMF trends. The water industry's acceptable value for water loss is 10%. In 2020, almost 40% of the systems that responded to the survey reported monthly water loss rates of 10% or less. Identification and reduction of nonrevenue water is a major component to achieving and maintaining TMF capacity. Promptly repairing leaks can result in cost-savings for water systems, not only in recovered water, but also electric and chemical savings. For this reason, water loss and leak detection is the PDWB's most requested TMF service.



If your system is interested in learning more about how to calculate water loss or receive leak detection assistance, please visit [the PDWB's Capacity Development webpage](#) or contact us at CapacityDevelopment@dnr.mo.gov.

Governor Parson Declares Aug. 16-22 as Water and Wastewater Treatment Workers Week in Missouri

Governor Mike Parson signed a proclamation declaring Aug. 16-22, 2020, as Water and Wastewater Treatment Workers Week in Missouri. The governor's proclamation recognizes the crucial work water and wastewater treatment professionals do to keep Missourians healthy and our communities vibrant.

"I want to thank our water and wastewater professionals and recognize the role they play in our daily lives to help provide safe clean drinking water and to make our wastewater systems work smoothly," said Governor Parson. "A clean and abundant supply of safe drinking water creates jobs, attracts industry and investments, and provides for the health and welfare of our citizens."

A thank you video (approximately two minutes) featuring a message from Governor Parson is available [here](#).

The department would like to join the governor in recognizing Missouri's water and wastewater professionals and the important work they perform every day. Throughout the COVID-19 emergency, their efforts as essential workers to provide clean water and sanitation in our communities has been critical to the response. Thank you again for all you do.

The Water & Wastewater Digest Newsletter Goes Paperless

This edition of the Water & Wastewater marks an important transition. The department will be sending this issue and all future issues electronically by email to certified operators and posting the document online. The department will no longer be mailing paper copies of this newsletter.

Certified operators can update their contact information, including adding an email address, [here](#). If you know a certified operator who did not receive this issue of the digest email, please encourage them to go online and review their contact information and provide updates as needed.

Operator Certification Exam Update

In July, the department resumed in-person operator certification exams and the schedule of upcoming sessions is available [here](#).

For increased safety, the department made some important changes to exam sessions, including social distancing and additional cleaning protocol. The department recommends each examinee bring a face covering and wear it during times when it may be difficult to maintain social distancing, for example while entering and exiting the building. Local orders may apply that require face covers.

To allow adequate time for room cleaning before and after the exam, the department will host one 9 a.m. session per exam date. The department will contact applicants and provide additional exam date(s) if the exam session they have selected is full.

If you have questions, please call the department's Operator Certification Section at 573-751-1600.



Important Dates for Financial Assistance

Due Date	Item	Description	Additional Information
Dec. 31, 2020	Abandoned Well Plugging Grant	Grants for plugging abandoned wells.	sourcewaterprotection@dnr.mo.gov
Dec. 31, 2020	Regionalization Incentive Grant	Grants for municipalities to plan and construct a sewer extension to serve a nearby, struggling facility.	https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/srf/wastewater-assistance.htm
Dec. 31, 2020	Drinking Water Engineering Report Grant	Grants for engineering plans for drinking water system improvements.	https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/srf/wastewaterloans.htm
March 1, 2021	Clean Water State Revolving Fund	This is a low-interest loan with possibility of partial grant for wastewater system and stormwater improvements.	https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/srf/wastewater-assistance.htm
March 1, 2021	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	This is a low-interest loan with possibility of partial grant for drinking water system improvements.	https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/srf/drinkingwater-assistance.htm
Accepted Any Time	Clean Water Engineering Report Grant	Grants for engineering plans for wastewater system improvements.	https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/srf/wastewaterloans.htm
Accepted Any Time	Small Borrower Loan	Loans for communities less than 1,000 population for small wastewater or drinking water system projects.	https://dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/srf/wastewaterloans.htm



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